

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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BERTRAM P. BROWN, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

What Does the Doctor Want to Know About Syphilis?

An analysis of 2,115 inquiries received by Dr. John H. Stokes, during the 10-year period ending July, 1939, suggests that general interest among physicians has greatly increased.

First, the doctor wants a treatment schedule for his patient (14 per cent of inquiries); second, he wants to know about drugs (11½ per cent), and his third most popular interest is the blood serologic reaction (9½ per cent).

Pointing out that "on the most critical issue of modern syphilis—the control of infectiousness—the doctor's interest is only seventh" (3½ per cent), the authors comment:

"1. Infectiousness is the critical public health issue in syphilis control, but a minor figure in the doctor's questions.

"2. Every physician who treats or meets any syphilis (and who doesn't) should have the rules for infection control before him. This is especially true under the new laws.

"3. Treatment to cure is preferable to the still undefinable treatment to noninfectiousness.

"4. Learn how to treat the pregnant syphilitic woman.

"5. Late congenital syphilitics are practically non-infectious—a fact apparently unfamiliar to many.

"6. Learn how seldom infectiousness need be an occupational issue, or serologic tests serve as indicators of infectiousness."

Only 10th in interest is the great preventive field

of syphilis in pregnancy (2½ per cent), while congenital syphilis rates 17th (2 per cent). The authors state that the questions indicate that some doctors do not know:

"1. That the male does not transmit syphilis to offspring—he transmits it to the mother.

"2. That the congenital syphilitic who reaches adult life is noninfectious in sexual contacts.

"3. That third generation syphilis is authentic but excessively rare.

"4. That a syphilitic woman, even with a fixed positive blood test, can give birth to a healthy child if treated with neoarsphenamine and bismuth during pregnancy, beginning preferably by the fifth month.

"5. That an arsphenamine is essential in such treatment.

"6. The whole subject of syphilis in pregnancy and congenital syphilis needs broadcast information and instruction to the profession."—A Study of Consultation by Correspondence in Syphilis, John H. Stokes, M.D., Norman R. Ingraham, Jr., M.D., Emily H. Stannard, in Veneral Disease Information, May, 1940.

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

Governor Olson has appointed Dr. Frank B. Young of Long Beach to succeed Dr. Roy A. Terry of Long Beach as a member of the California State Board of Public Health. Dr. Terry's term expired January 15, 1940, and Dr. Young has been appointed for the new four-year term.

DANGEROUS DRUGS SOLD ONLY ON PRESCRIPTION

The California State Board of Public Health at its meeting held May 25, 1940, adopted regulations as provided under section 205 of the Health and Safety Code to restrict the sale of veronal, barbital, acid diethylbarbituric, barbituric acid or any of their salts, derivatives or compounds, as well as other dangerous drugs and their compounds. These products can be sold at retail only upon the written order or prescription of a licensed physician and surgeon, osteopathic surgeon, dentist or veterinary surgeon. Following is the text of the resolution that provides for these restrictions:

WHEREAS, After investigation, it has been made to appear to the California State Board of Public Health that each of the following additional substances and preparations named and hereinafter referred to, and set out in this resolution, is a dangerously poisonous drug, chemical, and medicinal substance, and that to protect more fully the public health and safety, and in the interests of public health, the delivery and sale at retail of each of the following named substances and preparations should be more strictly safeguarded; therefore, be it

Resolved, That veronal, barbital, acid diethylbarbituric, barbituric acid, or any of their salts, derivatives or compounds or any preparation or compound containing any of the foregoing substances or their salts, derivatives or compounds may be sold at retail only upon the written order or prescription of a physician and surgeon, osteopathic physician and surgeon, dentist or veterinary surgeon duly licensed to practice in the State of California, and *shall not be refilled without the written order of the prescriber*.

Phenobarbital, or any of its salts or compounds or any preparation or compound containing any of the foregoing substance, or its salts or compounds may be sold only upon the written order or prescription of a physician and surgeon, osteopathic physician and surgeon, dentist or veterinary surgeon duly licensed to practice in the State of California, and *such prescription shall not be refilled without the written order of the prescriber*.

Acetylurea, sulfonated methanes, or any of their salts, derivatives or compounds, or any preparation or compound containing any of the foregoing substances or their salts, derivatives or compounds may be sold at retail only upon the written order or prescription of a physician and surgeon, osteopathic physician and surgeon, dentist or veterinary surgeon duly licensed to practice in the State of California, and *shall not be refilled without the written order of the prescriber*.

Phenylhydantoin, or any of its salts, derivatives or compounds, or any preparation or compound containing any of the foregoing substance or its salts, derivatives or compounds may be sold at retail only upon the written order or prescription of a physician and surgeon, osteopathic physician and surgeon, dentist or veterinary surgeon duly licensed to practice in the State of California, and *such prescription shall*

not be refilled without the written order of the prescriber, and be it further

Resolved, That as some of the above preparations are marketed under trade names of the various manufacturers, it is the duty of the pharmacist to acquaint himself with these various names.

Adopted under section 205, Paragraph D, of Article 1, of the Health and Safety Code.

CLINICS FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

During May, seven clinics for crippled children were held in the following counties: Nevada, Plumas, Modoc, San Bernardino, El Dorado, Orange, Sutter and Yuba. At these clinics 349 physically handicapped children were examined and recommendations were made for securing relief from their physical handicaps.

During the month of May, 45 children were assigned to physicians for care and at the end of the month, 298 children were awaiting care. During the three-month period ended March 31, 1,167 children were admitted to clinic service throughout the State. Admissions to hospitals totaled 221 and 9,733 hospital days of care were provided. At the end of March the crippled children's register, in its active section, contained the names of 8,018 children.

STATE LABORATORY MAKES MANY BLOOD TESTS

During May the following diagnostic tests for syphilis and gonorrhea were performed in this laboratory:

Gonococcus smears	491
Wassermann tests	2,729
Kahn tests	2,534
Kline tests	11,206

Premarital and Prenatal Tests

During May 8,702 premarital tests and 9,806 prenatal tests were reported. Since September, when the law requiring these tests became effective, 1.95 per cent of premarital tests and 1.93 per cent of prenatal tests have proved positive.

CLINICS ARE ACTIVE

During April, 103,376 clinic visits were registered throughout the State. A total of 58,384 treatments for syphilis was administered, as well as 22,000 treatments for gonorrhea.

VENEREAL DISEASE CASES REPORTED

During May, 1,655 cases of gonorrhea and 2,205 cases of syphilis were reported to the State Department of Public Health.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SERVICE ACTIVITIES

During May, industrial hygiene surveys were made in 113 Northern California industrial establishments. Information was obtained on industrial, medical, nursing and safety facilities available to employees, potential occupational health hazards and protective measures provided for the prevention of the occupational diseases. These industries consisted of bakeries, manufacturing plants for brick, tile and terracotta, chemicals, explosives, fertilizer, liquor and beverages, mines, printing, publishing and engraving, quarries, soap factories and tanneries. A total of 1,158 employees worked in these 113 plants.

School Chalks and Crayons

Samples of nontoxic chalks and crayons have been examined in the Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, to determine the presence of lead, mercury and arsenic. A complete list of colored chalks, crayons and water colors, tested by this department and found to be safe for use in the schools, will soon be available for distribution to education officials throughout the State.

Quicksilver Mines

About 90 per cent of all mercury produced in this country comes from California mines. Because it is essential in the manufacture of explosives and munitions, there has been a marked increase in the demand for mercury. Many old quicksilver mines, abandoned for years, have been reopened. Some are without protective and control equipment necessary to prevent the inhalation of mercury vapor and dust by employees. As a result, cases of mercury poisoning have occurred in quicksilver mine employees during recent months. A survey of such mines throughout the State is being made in conjunction with the State Industrial Accident Commission and the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

Skin Hazards Among Oil Field Workers

Through the cooperation of the petroleum industry, the Industrial Hygiene Service made a study of occupational skin diseases among California oil workers with a representative of the U. S. Public Health Service. Crude oil fields in the Los Angeles, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, Torrance, Inglewood, Bakersfield, Ventura, Taft, Coalinga, and Kettleman Hills districts were inspected. Examinations were made of 743 workers who were exposed to oil products and to excessive sunlight as well. One per cent were found to have acute skin cancer on the exposed surfaces, and about 20 per cent showed precancerous conditions

due to exposure to crude oil and intense solar radiation. Recommendations for the prevention of occupational skin diseases were discussed with company officials. A complete report of the investigation is in course of preparation.

Miscellaneous Field Investigations

At the request of the plant management, investigations were made to determine the hazards involved in atmospheric lead dust and fumes in the vicinity of linotype machines equipped with leadsaws.

Dust counts were made in a sugar refinery in which employees are exposed to organic dusts from burlap sacks and silica dusts from the diatomaceous earth used in filters.

A dust survey was also made in a large pottery works with 208 employees.

Laboratory Studies

Among the laboratory analyses of materials used in industry, the following were made during May: offset sprays used in printing plants, glazed pottery to determine its soluble lead content, free silica determinations on samples of slates used in the manufacture of roofing paper.

During the month, technical reports and recommendations were prepared and submitted to many governmental agencies, industrial executives, labor unions, civic organizations, insurance companies, safety engineers and others, covering a wide range of subject matter. Among such are prevention of occupational diseases among migratory agricultural workers, occupational health hazards in printing plants, phenol poisoning from poster colors, health protection of dry cleaning plant operators, health hazards in motion picture studios, health protection of spray painters, prevention of heat prostration, poison oak prevention, dermatitis due to pyrethrum dust and many others.

MARRIAGES CONTINUE TO DECREASE

Marriages continue under the number registered during the month of April, 1939. Last year there were 4,569 and this year 3,034 registered in April. During the first four months there was a decrease of 6,204 from 17,218 to 11,014. This was a decrease of 36.0 per cent.

DRUG DISTRIBUTION

Drugs sufficient for 44,490 treatments were distributed without cost to clinics, health departments and private physicians whose patients were unable to pay for them.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending
June 8, 1940

Chickenpox

472 cases: Alameda County 2, Alameda 5, Berkeley 14, Oakland 32, San Leandro 2, Contra Costa County 2, Concord 2, Pittsburg 5, Fresno County 3, Fresno 13, Eureka 1, Callexico 1, Kern County 9, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 2, Los Angeles County 34, Alhambra 13, Burbank 1, Compton 5, Culver City 3, El Monte 1, Glendale 5, Hermosa 2, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 14, Los Angeles 60, Manhattan 5, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 13, Redondo 2, San Gabriel 22, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 2, South Pasadena 4, Madera County 2, Monterey 1, Calistoga 3, Orange County 17, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 7, Seal Beach 1, La Habra 3, Laguna Beach 5, Colfax 1, Riverside County 2, Blythe 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 8, Colton 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 4, Escondido 1, National City 1, San Diego 7, San Francisco 55, San Joaquin County 6, Manteca 7, Stockton 12, San Luis Obispo County 1, Menlo Park 2, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 6, Palo Alto 11, Sunnyvale 1, Santa Cruz 2, Solano County 1, Benicia 2, Vallejo 2, Sonoma County 2, Modesto 2, Tulare County 4, Exeter 1, Marysville 1.

Diphtheria

12 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles 1, Sacramento 4, Colton 1, National City 2, San Diego 1, San Jose 1, Tulare 1.

German Measles

20 cases: Alameda 1, Oakland 1, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 4, Whittier 1, Fort Bragg 1, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Stockton 1, Santa Cruz 1.

Influenza

111 cases: Kern County 29, Los Angeles County 73, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 4, Lynwood 1, Santa Ana 1, San Mateo County 1, Palo Alto 1.

Malaria

5 cases: Fresno County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Francisco 1, Exeter 1, Yuba County 1.

Measles

502 cases: Oakland 5, Chico 1, Contra Costa County 12, Antioch 16, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 4, Fresno 18, Imperial County 26, Brawley 1, Callexico 150, Imperial 1, Kern County 24, Bakersfield 2, Delano 8, Kings County 40, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 20, Manhattan 1, Pasadena 1, South Pasadena 12, Madera 2, Pacific Grove 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 15, San Diego County 11, Escondido 1, San Diego 29, San Francisco 4, San Joaquin County 5, Lodi 4, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo County 5, Paso Robles 1, San Luis Obispo 16, Santa Barbara 4, San Jose 6, Mount Shasta City 10, Solano County 1, Vallejo 1, Stanislaus County 10, Modesto 4, Sutter County 1, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 8, Oxnard 4, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 1, Winters 1, California 1.*

Mumps

535 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 9, Berkeley 3, Oakland 9, Piedmont 7, Fresno County 6, Clovis 3, Fresno 5, Kern County 29, Bakersfield 14, Delano 6, Kings County 10, Los Angeles County 69, Arcadia 2, Compton 1, Glendale 15, Long Beach 88, Los Angeles 49, Manhattan 1, Monrovia 5, Pasadena 4, Pomona 6, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 3, Whittier 2, Torrance 1, South Gate 1, Signal Hill 1, Orange County 3, Anaheim 10, Fullerton 8, Santa Ana 3, Riverside County 2, Banning 1, Indio 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 42, San Joaquin County 8, Manteca 7, Stockton 15, Paso Robles 2, San Luis Obispo 3, San Mateo County 2, Redwood City 3, San Mateo 1, Menlo Park 2, Santa Barbara County 4, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 12, Santa Clara County 37, Palo Alto 3, San Jose 2, Sutter County 2, Ventura 2, Woodland 1, Yuba County 2, Marysville 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

47 cases: Oakland 2, Fresno County 1, Imperial County 1, Los Angeles County 8, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 11, Pasadena 1, Maywood 1, Monterey County 1, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, Plumas County 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Santa Clara County 1, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 1, Dinuba 1.

Scarlet Fever

123 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 2, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 4, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 20, Alhambra 1, Burbank 2, Culver City 1, Glendale 1, Hermosa 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 13, Monrovia 2, Lynwood 2, Merced County 1, Orange County 4, Orange 1, Riverside County 3, Riverside 3, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 2, San Bernardino 5, Escondido 1, National City 1, San Diego 7, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 1, Stockton 1, Santa Clara County 2, Santa Cruz 2, Solano County 4, Tulare County 1, Sonoma 1, Ventura County 2, Fillmore 1, Ventura 2, Yolo County 8.

Smallpox

2 cases: Chico 1, Placer County 1.

Typhoid Fever

8 cases: Imperial County 2, Hawthorne 1, Corona 1, San Jose 1, Solano County 1, Sonoma County 1, Modesto 1.

Whooping Cough

487 cases: Alameda 8, Oakland 9, Colusa County 1, Fresno County 5, Fowler 2, Fresno 6, Kern County 26, Bakersfield 2, Delano 3, Kings County 12, Los Angeles County 43, Alhambra 1, Burbank 3, Compton 5, Culver City 3, El Monte 1, Glendale 5, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 9, Los Angeles 51, Montebello 1, Pasadena 6, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 1, South Pasadena 2, Monterey Park 3, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Gardena 2, Fort Bragg 1, Gustine 2, Monterey County 12, Monterey 1, Pacific Grove 4, Soledad 1, Orange County 10, Anaheim 3, Santa Ana 1, Placentia 12, Placer County 1, Riverside County 3, Banning 2, Corona 1, Perris 15, Riverside 1, Sacramento 34, Hollister 9, San Bernardino County 1, Colton 3, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 17, Escondido 9, San Diego 2, San Francisco 24, San Joaquin County 7, Lodi 2, Manteca 2, Stockton 3, Tracy 3, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Mateo County 2, Redwood City 1, Menlo Park 5, Belmont 2, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 10, Palo Alto 7, San Jose 19, Santa Cruz County 4, Santa Cruz 5, Watsonville 7, Santa Rosa 1, Stanislaus County 3, Modesto 1, Porterville 1, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1, Woodland 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

6 cases: Fresno county 2, San Mateo 4.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

5 cases: Kern County 1, Los Angeles 2, Pasadena 1, Santa Ana 1.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case: Orange County.

Pellagra

One case: Los Angeles.

Poliomyelitis

14 cases: Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 7, San Marino 2, Modesto 1.

Trachoma

One case: California.*

Paratyphoid Fever

3 cases: Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 1, Pasadena 1.

Typhus Fever

One case: Alhambra.

Jaundice

One case: Humboldt County.

Food Poisoning

68 cases: Huntington Park 4, Los Angeles 1, Sacramento County 62, San Francisco 1.

Undulant Fever

2 cases: Tustin 1, Sonoma County 1.

Tularemia

One case: Los Angeles County.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

One case: Santa Clara County.

Septic Sore Throat

Two cases: Madera

Epilepsy

46 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Humboldt County 1, Los Angeles County 5, Glendale 1, Glendora 1, Los Angeles 26, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 1, La Habra 1, Sacramento 1, San Benito County 2, San Francisco 3.

Rabies (Animal)

10 cases: Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1, Hillsborough 1, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 1, Tulare County 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.